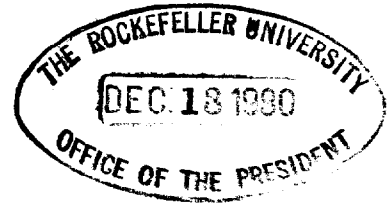


X



December 9, 1980.

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,
President,
Rockefeller University,
1230 York Avenue,
New York, N.Y.
10021.



Dear Josh,

By now you will have had my letter and telephone call saying what a pleasure it would be to serve on your Council. This is indeed a high honour but I have had to tell the Honourable Mr. Justice Clyde whose name I put forward a year ago that they were not looking for quality as much as comic relief, so that he will understand! As Chancellor of the University of British Columbia he despairs of my wild endeavours, but he certainly supports me when the chips are down, on medical education, budgeting, research and so on. In 1922 he was one of the "radical students" that forced the government to build the university they had promised the soldiers for so long, out on the six square miles of territory called euphemistically "the Endowment Lands".

The reprint requests continue on and we will have to shut them off or do a reprinting, I think, of the JAMA article on research. I enclose the kind of letter just in this morning from one of my old friends at the Neurological Institute at McGill. Whether I should send any reprints to a fellow who did a myelogram on me is a moot question!

My daughter, Kate, tells me that the American visitors to Peking are amazed at the crystal sarcophagus in which Mao is displayed. They call it "Peasant Under Glass". She has also come up with a new definition of "inuendo", which is "an Italian suppository". You can see that I am being brought up improperly by my children.

For the January 28th meeting I shall arrange to be in the night before as it is a long trip and the three hours' time difference works against the West Coast people going in that direction. I should spend a little while with the Muscular Dystrophy people at the National Office while in New York either before or after your Council meetings.

A press release goes out today on my joining your Council, and I can just hear the chatter in the various

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Dr. Joshua Lederberg, (cont'd.)

university presidential offices, "First he was working for Mountbatten. Now he's working for the Rockefellers. What is his next stop?"

With warmest Season's Greetings to you and looking forward very much to seeing you again,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Bill', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William C. Gibson, M.D., F.R.C.P.
Chairman

WCG:vh